

Minutes of Public Works Committee Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Present: Rob Crowner (Chair), Mike Cann, Guilford Mooring (Superintendent, DPW), Don George, Charlie Moran, Vincent O'Connor.

1. Administrative

Minutes of 4-7-09: Accepted 4-0-1.

Next meeting set for: June 2, 2009, 7:00.

2. Old Business

Updates:

Sand Hill Road. A meeting with abutters scheduled, and with the Public Shade Tree Committee, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission. Problems: the road is not in the layout—some pavement on private property; the road does not meet Town width standards (24' or 20' with 2 x 2" prepared shoulder). To bring it to standard width will require that a number of trees be taken down. Surveying complete. The process: Shade Tree & Planning Committees will want it to stay at its present width and course; Superintendent Mooring will take their request to Select Board; if the Board agrees, the road can remain its present width and take its present course. Top of hill to Pine Street is ready for next season; from top of hill to State Street may be ready as well. Storm water drainage will require either a storm scepter system to separate out solids, or an extension of the existing drainage to the bridge where it can be tied into an existing outfall. In this latter case the storm scepter facility will have to be placed on conservation land. The cost of a storm scepter: c. \$20K.

Pelham Road: nothing in progress. Survey partially finished.

Rte. 116-Snell to Hampshire—the Town has put in for stimulus money. To be milled and overlaid. Will be a state project. This will be a book job—the town will not submit detailed plans. It will be turned over to the state, which will bid it next year. The state can't give this particular money to towns or municipalities.

Asphalt: The current bid is \$71/ton for asphalt in place.

Mill Lane Bridge: Mike Cann: we own the Mill Lane bridge. How will this be repaired? Mr. Mooring: we are working on railings now. Not all fleshed out. Deck will be repaired when 116 gets repaved. Mass Hwy—has established a new design for railings.

Spring Street: doubtful for this year. Plans are here.

Camera Controls: Vince O'Connor asked if these had been funded through stimulus bill funding. Mr. Mooring: no stimulus money, but the controller on Triangle Street is being worked on now.

3. New Business

Draft PWC Report: Rob Crowner presented a Draft PWC Report to Annual Town Meeting. After some discussion, it was

Moved: To accept the draft PWC report. **Voted: 5-0-0.**

PW Budget: Mr. Mooring noted that the budget is still a moving target. It seems as if the reduction in PW services to other Town units, scheduled over the next five years, will be compressed into this coming year. Lost services will include, as examples, no setting up of ballfields, no work on school parking lots. As things stand, with present and likely budget scenarios, Mr. Mooring expects to lose one full highway crew.

ATM Article 25, related to expenditure of Chapter 90 funds for FY 10.

Moved: That PWC supports Article 25. **Voted 5-0-0.**

ATM Article 26: Charlie Moran noted that PWC needs to support adequate funding for the Capital Program, as taken up in Article 26. Interest and principal payments on a 4.3M borrowing for road repair is a listed item on the Joint Capital Planning Committee's proposal for FY11 and beyond. This funding will only be possible if the Town increases its support for its Capital Program. JCPC believes that Capital Projects funding of 10% of the Town's total tax levy is sufficient to keep up with maintenance and repair of existing facilities, though not enough to undertake new projects (e.g. a new Fire Station). For FY10, the amount budgeted for the Town's Capital Program is 6.75% of the tax levy—clearly not enough to keep up with required maintenance. The Town's support for its Capital Program will have to increase in the next fiscal years if this borrowing for road repair is to happen.

Development on Sunset: Don George asked about a rumored development (c. 200 apartment units) to the west of Sunset Avenue and just north of Fearing Street. He noted that such a development would render moot any traffic calming programs for Sunset and Lincoln avenues. Mr. Mooring noted that developers are looking for sites in town for high-end apartment complexes. At present, 10 units are now planned for the corner of Sunset and Fearing, and 60 units for the corner of Pomeroy Lane and Rte. 116.

4. Old Business

Spring Street. Mr. Mooring reported that work on the east end of Spring Street is scheduled for early fall. He will meet with Amherst College in July to talk about the east piece of the street.

Vince O'Connor asked again that utilities be placed underground. It was noted that such a move would be extremely expensive. After discussion, it was

Moved: To approve the plans for the east section of Spring Street. **Voted 4-1.**

There was discussion and further review of the plans for the parking lot on the west side of Spring Street. Vince O'Connor argued that the proposed angled curb, which would permit Farmer's Market trucks to back onto the proposed wide sidewalks, were not safe for pedestrians. He argued as well that this money, from the Parking and Transportation Fund, should be spent on acquiring parking for the north end of town. After discussion, it was

Moved: To approve the plans for the Spring Street parking lot. **Voted 4-1.**

Sidewalk Plowing: Don George noted that in S. Hadley the town plows its sidewalks with snow blowers, which makes it easier to put the snow where you want it. Mr. Mooring noted that Amherst is moving from sidewalk plows to blowers. Blowers do a better job, they are easier on the operators, but they are slower.

Atkins Corner timeline: Mr. Mooring reported that the 75% plan has already been accepted. Now the Town moves toward a 100% plan submittal. Since PWC last saw the plan at the 75% stage, there have been a couple of minor changes related to drainage. The 100% plan will be submitted July 1 to Mass Highway. Relative to permitting, he has submitted plans to MEPA—which responded with no finding, so we can proceed. He will submit a Notice of Intent to the Conservation Commission and will get the necessary drainage easements. Sometime in July the permitting and property acquisition should be wrapped up, and this fall he can begin work on drainage and taking down houses. Mass Highway will start on the project next spring. Ch90 funding used to purchase right-of-way: c. 200K, spread over several years.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec'y pro tem.